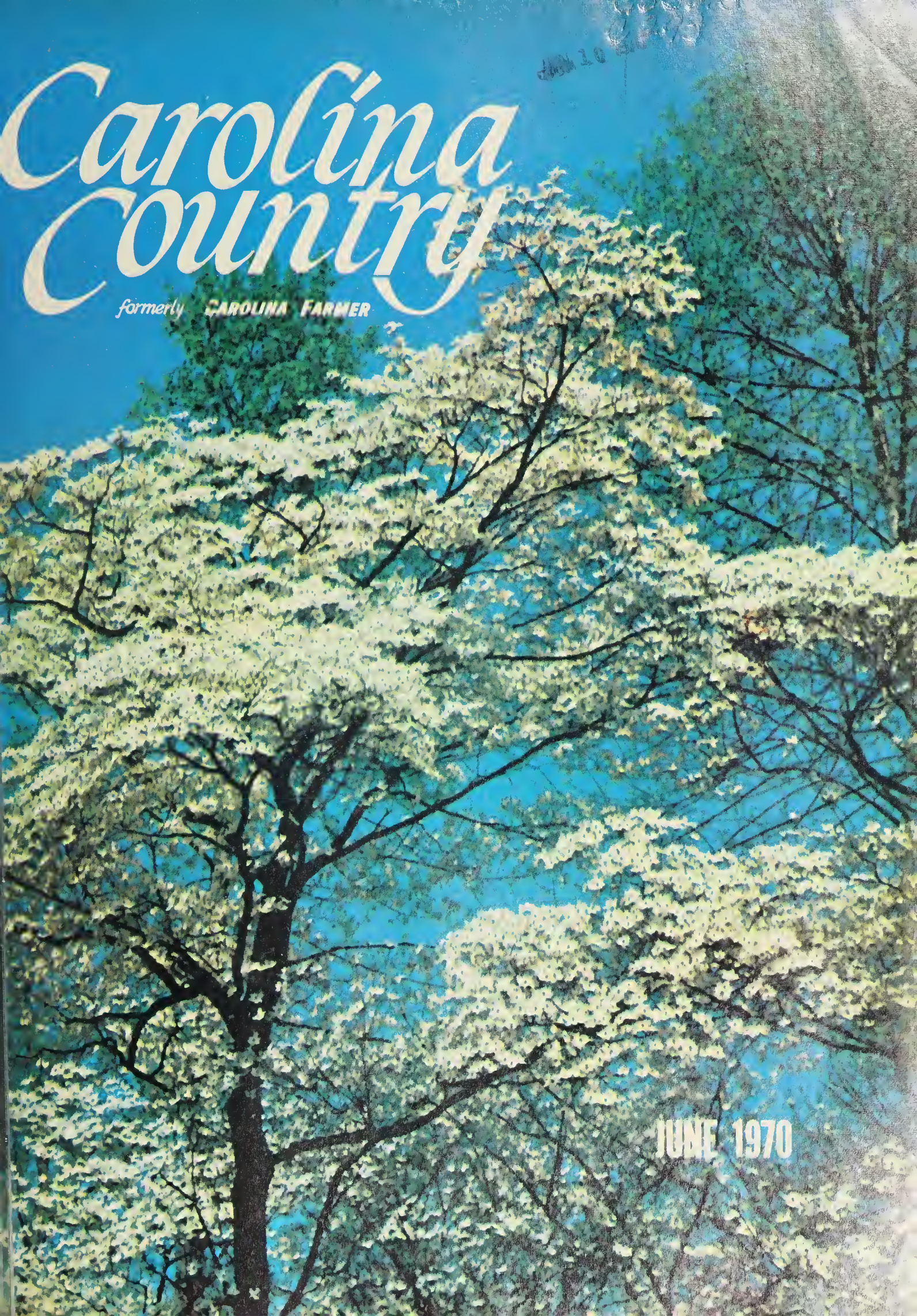
# Carolina Country

formerly CAROLINA FARMER



JUNE 1970



# TARHEEL RURAL LINES

a commentary on events and issues important to consumer-owners of EMCs/by J. C. Brown Jr.

## Copper Thefts Costly to Co-ops

THEFT of copper wire is costing the electric membership corporations of North Carolina an estimated $10,000 a month. The estimate is rough, and the co-ops are in the process of determining exactly what the losses have been over the past two years.

Some of the theft is undoubtedly the work of amateurs, and frequently leads to the electrocution of the thief while trying to cut down an energized line. Most of the work appears to be well-planned by persons knowledgeable about electric distribution as well as crime. The thefts usually are of lines leading to unoccupied houses. The scrap is sold to junk dealers.

A committee of this Association, the State Rural Electrification Authority, and a representative of CP&L, met last month with Attorney General Bob Morgan and SBI Director Charles Dunn, to devise ways of deterring the dangerous and costly robberies. Tighter controls on the resale of the scrap to junk dealers would be helpful. You, as a member and rate-payer, can help by reporting to your EMC any suspicious activites which might indicate that unauthorized persons are attempting to remove lines in your neighborhood.

### *Duke and CP&L Seek Rate Increases*

Following the Utilities Commission rejection of Duke's rate increase proposal based upon the cost of fuel, the company's president announced that it would seek a "substantial" general rate increase. CP&L has also filed application with the Commission for a 10½ per cent rate increase.

### *City Congressmen not Anti-Farm*

The National Farmers Union has recently conducted a study which revealed that urban congressmen are most often strong supporters of programs helpful to farmers. Voting records for the past two years reveal that on six issues of direct concern to agriculture, 108 congreesmen from the largest cities cast 416 votes for and 153 votes against. This was a 73 per cent favorable vote.

### *North Carolinians Seek REA Funds*

Faced with rising needs for capital, inadequate budget requests, and impoundment of appropriated funds by the Budget Bureau, a group of North Carolinians spent four days in Washington in April contacting the state's Congressmen. Chief immediate concern was to seek help in persuading the Budget Bureau to release $20 million in funds appropriated by congress for REA loans but which the Bureau refuses to release. It doesn't make sense for the Administration to sit on this money while the REA will enter the next fiscal year with a backlog of loan applications amounting to $470 million.

### *Housing Program Set*

Responding to the Governor's request that the EMCs take a leading role in improving rural housing, this Association and the Farmers Home Administration organized a statewide meeting (May 19) and four regional meetings to establish working relationships between the Farmers Home and the EMCs.

# Carolina Country

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*Executive Manager*


COVER— The dogwood was in bloom when we picked our cover photo and it was too beautiful to pass up. The picture is from a full-color brochure, "The Flowers and Gardens of North Carolina," produced by Charles Crone Associates, the State's advertising agency, in cooperation with The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., for the State Travel and Promotion Division. Copies may be obtained from Travel and Promotion Division, N.C. Dept. of Conservation and Development, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

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## Let's Withdraw The Power Troops

If the President ean withdraw troops from Vietnam, the generals of the power industry's investor-owned armies, public power armies and eonsumer-owned systems ought to be able to withdraw their troops, too.

It's ridieulous for the eleetrie industry to continue to pour millions into interneeine sniping, lobbying and divisive advertising in the faee of a national power shortage. About the only thing elear, for all the words and charges exchanged in the industry's family feud, is that there is a power shortage. This is implieit in the many applieations for rate inereases. And if the eonsumer-publie is to be burdened with higher rates, the consumer has the right to demand the power industry settle its private differenees and concentrate on its publie responsibilities.

Far too much time and money have been spent far too long on infighting and far too little on eooperative researeh, planning and innovation. The public is as vexed with the pollution of the airwaves, magazines and the other media in which one side smears the other as it is with the actual pollution of the environment.

What the consumer, the publie, wants from the power industry is dependable, low eost electricity, generating faeilities that won't contaminate the air and waters, an end to the ugly and outmoded overhead distribution systems and a greater effort to develop and install trouble-free underground distribution faeilities.

The eonsumer doesn't want to hear or read any more about the philosophical and politieal pros and cons of IOUs, TVA, REA and EMCs. He's fed up. He doesn't want any more of his light bill diverted to advertisements, propaganda and eanned editorials claiming one type of power system is more subsidized than another, or pays more taxes, or is nicer to people, or is more All-American and public spirited.

He doesn't want it, and he is showing through the growing strength of the consumer movement across the nation that he's gaining the clout to do something about stopping it.

We'd like to see the industry stop it itself, voluntarily. Because if it doesn't, an aroused and organized American eonsumer is going to throw his troops into an all-out war against the industry to the detriment of every part of it. And the issue could well be the environment, the issue on which all of the industry is painfully vulnerable.

*Jim Chaney*

# Mr. Nixon's Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs Lays It on the Line For North Carolina's Consumers



Mrs. Virginia H. Knauer

(Excerpts from a speech by Mrs. Virginia H. Knauer at the third annual meeting of the North Carolina Consumers Council at Meredith College, Raleigh).

North Carolina's state motto, "To be, rather than to seem," could very well apply to what your wonderful organization, what other consumer organizations, what consumers across the country are aiming at.

Too often we've been told about products that seemed to be good, so we bought them—and they weren't.

Too often we've been told about services that appeared to be good. We bought the services, but they weren't good.

Too often the American consumer has been told about a consumer world that doesn't exist—except in the minds of advertisers.

What we consumers across the country are saying is let's have the reality of a quality consumer marketplace, not the appearance.

And so I think you North Carolinians are fulfilling not only your state's creed but the consumer's as well . . . For your numbers, you have accomplished wonders. But I'd like to see you have more people in your organization. I'd like to see every North Carolinian join. With good organizations backed by significant numbers, we can accomplish wonders—on the local, state and federal levels.

And we have much to accomplish. I know. Every day I hear from consumers across the country who are having problems when they shouldn't have problems. Every month, I receive more letters than the month before.

(As examples of problems, Mrs. Knauer cited the abuses of "aluminum repair hucksters," "the aluminum siding racket," "the holder-in-due course system" by which the home improvement operator works in collusion with a finance company and "the consumer gets the shaft." She also cited termite operators who "clean you of your savings, not your house of bugs," misleading advertisements and "salesmen from out of town correspondence schools" who, in a racket aimed at high school students, promise lucrative jobs to those who take their courses).

You have your own problems in this State. I understand that you are concerned about the rate increases being proposed by Carolina Power and Light, and Duke Power Company.

For your consideration, allow me to tell you what I believe about these matters.

Let us start off with one basic premise. Sometimes rate hikes are necessary, sometimes they are not. To determine the validity of an increase, I think there are three critical areas to look into.

The first is one of adequate generating supplies . . . One of the major reasons given for rate increases is the need to build new generating plants to meet present and future electrical loads . . . Your utilities should tell you frankly whether singly or in unison they have enough supplies to meet your demands. If the answer is no, then rate increases may be justified to build the necessary power supplies—to borrow the money, to purchase the land and to purchase the fuel . . .

A second important factor is the obvious need for anti-pollution equipment. Put very bluntly, what good does it do the consumer if he has enough electricity to run his air conditioning equipment, but the utilities, in generating the electricity, poison the air the consumer breathes? Or if the consumer has enough electricity to charge the batteries on his boat, but the lake is ruined by the thermal discharge from the utilities.

Just as the utilities have a social responsibility to install effective equipment to protect and preserve our environment, so, too, must consumers share at least part of the burden of this cost. So that factor must be looked into. If your utilities are not fulfilling their social responsibilities to the beautiful State of North Carolina, then you should see that they do. In the same vein, proper consideration must be given in any rate proposal for anti-pollution equipment.

But above all, and I am going to stress this, above all is the adequacy of the State Utilities Commission, or, as it is called in some states, the public service commission.

In some states, the public service commissions have neither the staff nor the funds to do a proper job of evaluating rate proposals. And they admit it!

How can a public service commission do an adequate job of protecting the consumer if the commission does not have a rate analyst? Yet, believe it or not, this situation exists. How can a public service commission protect the consumer if the commissioners lack experience in energy matters.

Now I am not going to get into the adequacy of your State Utilities Commission. I think that is your job. You have to determine whether your state commission has the reputation of protecting the public or the private interest.

If you determine that it does have integrity, then you have a reasonable assurance that your concerns will be safeguarded. If you determine that it does not have proper adequacy, then you have a citizen's responsibility to see that the commission lives up to its responsibilities.

Besides rate proposals, I understand that you are considering the Uniform Consumer Credit Code . . . We recognize that the Code provides stronger protection for the consumer than now exists in some states. But some states (North Carolina is

one) have stronger provisions already on its books. Many provisions of the UCCC must be changed for it to become even basically acceptable to consumers.

As one example, the Code inexplicably excludes pawnbrokers from its coverage. Yet pawnbrokers traditionally are the highest rate lenders available, and their clientele are invariably our poorer and disadvantaged citizens. Further, the Code exempts insurance companies selling insurance from its coverage, with the exception of credit insurance. And yet, automobile and fire insurance is surely often sold on credit, and the consumer who buys this service is entitled to protection. We should strive to make the Code a real consumer bill, rather than one which is merely better than nothing.

## The Consumer Council - What It Has Done; How You Can Join

At a business session following Mrs. Knauer's speech, Rep. Richard Clark of Monroe, the Council's president, reported the three-year-old North Carolina Consumers Council now has over 2,000 individual members, plus 65 local group memberships and eight statewide organizations as members. These include the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, the Medical Society of North Carolina, the North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, EMCs and various other organizations, associations and businesses representing 500,000 North Carolinians.

As examples of some of the Council's accomplishments, Clark said the Council:

– Worked closely with Attorney General Robert Morgan in his successful efforts to establish the Consumer Protection Division headed by Jean Benoy in his department.

– Took part in hearings held by the 1969 General Assembly on matters affecting consumers.

– Supported legislation which funded the Consumer Protection Division, enabled the Attorney General to prevent unfair trade practices and frauds, allowed the Attorney General to represent the public before state agencies, kept interest rates from being increased as much as "high interest" lobbyists wanted and added two consumer members to the State Banking Commission.

– Successfully intervened on two occasions in rate increases before the State Utilities Commission, "joining with the Attorney General and others in standing up for the public against two of the largest financial interests in this nation," and in both cases "preventing rate increases which would have cost consumers of this state millions of dollars."

Clark pointed out that the Council, a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers, does not have the resources to handle individual consumer complaints. Instead, he said, the council concentrates on:

– Assuring that the consumer's voice is heard in legislative matters.
– Intervening for the consumer when circumstances warrant before regulatory agencies and study commissions.
– Keeping the public informed about many of the issues affecting the consumer.

The Council's board of directors re-elected Clark as president, Paul Guthrie of Chapel Hill first vice president and Mrs. Donald Shriver of Raleigh second vice president. Mrs. Justine Rozier of Raleigh succeeded Mrs. Betty Faucette of Durham as secretary and Harry McKinney of Greensboro was re-elected treasurer.

You owe it to yourself to join the Consumers Council. You can become a member or renew your membership by sending $3 with your name and full address to: Membership Chairman, N. C. Consumers Council, P. O. Box 10273, Raleigh, N. C. 27605.

For information as to how your club or organization can join, you also should write to the membership chairman, Box 10273, Raleigh, N. C. 27605.

**Enclosed is $3 for a membership in the N.C. Consumers Council.**

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# "Proclamation Day"

*Largely because various organizations, businesses and lobbying groups have managed over the years to build it into his job, a governor spends a lot of time proclaiming special observances, days, weeks, months and such. So many "proclamations" are issued and so many observances observed that they have lost all meaning and North Carolina's governor has to hold two Proclamation Days a month to take care of the signing and the attendant ceremony. Carolina Country sat in on a Proclamation Day session with the Governor. Here is how it went.*

Governor Bob Scott sat behind his desk and, speaking as though he had an audience in his office, congratulated the people of South Carolina on their state's 300th anniversary.

We in North Carolina are proud to have shared so much history with you, he said. As two of the original 13 states we have much in common.

A television camera recorded the message for showing later over South Carolina television stations in connection with South Carolina's Tricentennial.

"A good take," the cameraman announced as he shut off his equipment. Congratulating Scott on a good performance, he began disconnecting his lights and cables.

It was 2 o'clock and the beginning of one of the two afternoon sessions the Governor and his press secretary, C.T. West, set aside each month for observing observances, designating special days, weeks and months and issuing special proclamations.

As the TV man packed up his gear, West brought in the first of six groups which had been waiting in the outer office and outside in the corridors and under the dome of the stately old Capitol.

The first group was made up of representatives of Toastmasters Clubs around the state and was accompanied by a photographer.

As the 10 or so members of the group arranged themselves for a picture, the Governor read the statement his office was issuing declaring May 1970 Toastmasters' Month in North Carolina.

Several photographs were made. The visitors shook hands with the Governor and the group left, carrying the official statement the Governor had signed. West followed the Toastmasters out to let the next group know the Governor was ready.

Waiting for it to arrive, the Governor said hundreds of organizations, business and associations and some individuals ask him to issue proclamations. Every governor has done it, he noted, and it takes up a lot of every governor's time.

In most cases, Scott said, we don't really issue proclamations; we issue statements. Proclamations, he explained, usually are issued only to declare official State holidays, bank holidays and such.

Last year, Governor Scott signed 143 statements and proclamations. At a "proclamation session" in March, he designated:

April 19-25 Youth Temperance Education Week.

April 4-11 Chamber of Commerce Week.

April 24-May 1 Medical Technologists Week.

April 22 Queen Isabella Day.

March 30-April 5 Future Business Leaders of America Week.

April 5-11 Life Insurance Week.

April 19-25 Dietetics Week.

At an earlier session, he designated 11 special observances for March.

There is considerable amount of time to it, the Governor said, and I've debated whether it's worth the time. When you consider what the people of North Carolina pay their governors, it gets to be pretty expensive.

About three-fourths of a governor's time is taken up like this, he added. It's work anybody can do, but people seem to want the governor to do it.

The next group, a sizeable delegation representing the North Carolina Poultry Federation, began filing in. Like every other group that afternoon, the Poultry people brought along a photographer. They were also accompanied by a farm editor and a television man.

After everybody had been introduced, two attractive young women in the delegation presented the governor with several one dozen cartons of eggs and a platter piled high with turkey sausages in fresh rolls. Pictures were made of the Governor sampling the turkey sausage. He pronounced it very tasty.

Settling again in his big chair, the Governor signed an impressive document designating April 1970 as Poultry Products Month in North Carolina and extolling the importance of the poultry industry to North Carolina's agribusiness economy.

As the cameras clicked and the television man did his silent bit, the Governor was presented a five pound carton of chicken drumsticks, a 13.5 pound dressed young turkey, a five pound carton of frying chicken parts and a six pound breast of chicken roll.

Scott told his visitors he was particularly appreciative because the poultry products could all be used at the Mansion.

It will help the budget, he joked, and will come in handy for all the luncheons and teas that are held there as well as for regular Mansion meals.

A delegation representing North Carolina's textile manufacturing industry came in next. It brought not only its own photgrapher but its own writer, plus about eight five-yard lengths of the latest dress and shirt materials and enough fine fabric to make a man's suit.

In conversations with the Governor members of the group made the point repeatedly that Japanese textiles are flooding the American market, driving North Carolina textile workers out of jobs and North Carolina mills out of business. The Governor listened sympathetically and made agreeable small talk. (On other occasions, under similar circumstances, farm commodity groups and businesses seeking to expand foreign trade and improve foreign markets for their product

have and would lobby gently for less restriction in world trade.)

Then, getting down to the real business at hand, the textile executives posed with the Governor as he signed a statement designating April 1970 as Textile Futures Month in North Carolina. The document endorsed an "Operation Futures" program to encourage young people to pursue textile careers.

In the wake of the textile group's departure, two of the Governor's top aides, David Murray and Ben Roney, entered, each with an urgent item of official business. Quickly facts were reported, developments considered and decisions made.

Three girls and four boys representing the Youth Councils of North Carolina came in. The seven high school seniors from various sections of the state had come with a photographer and a local TV newsman to have the Governor designate April 27-May 3 as Youth Week. Scott signed an appropriately worded official document for them, told them he was making plans for a State Youth Conference to be held in the fall, and gave each a card bearing the State seal on which he quickly wrote each a personal message as a souvenir.

The students told the Governor North Carolina is the only state to have a statewide youth organization such as theirs. That started a conversation in which Scott referred to many other things in which North Carolina is either "only" or "first."

North Carolina, Scott reminded the students, has achieved many firsts in education. He gave some examples, and the students gave others.

And so it went. After the students, a Mrs. David Glass of Kannapolis came in for the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs with a photographer. The photographer took her picture with Scott as the Governor signed a statement designating May 1 as Youth Conservation Day. Mrs. Glass and Scott exchanged pleasantries as she left, telling him she would see him at the Foundation's state convention.

We won't have to issue that proclamation again, West informed the Governor. They asked us to make May Youth Conservation Day for as long as you're in office, so that's what we did. I thought it was a pretty good idea.



**One of the good things about being Governor of North Carolina is that North Carolina produces so many tasty products, like the turkey sausage the pretty girl is feeding Governor Scott. The picture was made by Farm Editor Bill Humphries of the Raleigh News and Observer in the Governor's Office during a "Proclamation" session at which the Governor proclaimed Poultry Products Month for the North Carolina Poultry Federation and issued proclamations for other special observances for various other organizations seeking to make publicity.**

Finally, four smartly dressed ladies, all in gay spring outfits and hats, entered carrying small flower-trimmed baskets on their arms. As their photographer snapped pictures, the Governor signed a document for them designating May 17-23 Welcome Wagon Week. They told Scott the baskets were their "trademark" and said Welcome Wagon ladies welcome thousands of new people, many from out of state, to new homes in North Carolina communities.

They badly wanted the Governor to come to their convention. The Governor had an out of state engagement on their meeting date, but he said he hoped they'd ask him again next year.

It was now approaching 3:40 p.m. The day's session had run a bit shorter than the usual two hours.

One of these days, the Governor said, we're going to have C.T. (West) issue a proclamation for Proclamation Day.

*Jim Chaney*



# SUMMER COOL

The Carolina Homemaker
Edited By Betty McBride

Children fuss, nerves frazzle, appetites vanish. Tossing sleepless, perspiring nights are making the family miserable.

If this is a familar summer scene at your house, change that this month. Invest in a pleasant, happy summer. Go look for an air conditioner.

What will an air conditioner do for your family? It will improve family harmony. Everyone will sleep better. Little children will be able to nap during the day. Olders ones will want to spend more time at home. Appetites will improve and so will mother's summer cooking when the kitchen is a cool, enjoyable place to be.

Air conditioning offers your family other advantages besides coolness. An air conditioner filters the air of dirt and pollen and may help to relieve any allergies in your family. Because doors and windows are kept closed, the house will seem quieter.

While it is not difficult to select the proper air conditioner, there is more to the process than going into a store and shouting, "Give me an air conditioner, quick."

Several things must be decided. What rooms do you want to cool? Where do you want to place the air conditioning units? How much area do you have to cool? Do you want to consider central air conditioning?

If you want to cool a small area like a bedroom or kitchen the simplest way is to install a window air conditioner. Several companies make an air conditioner that a man can lift and place in the window. He then extends panels on the sides on the air conditioner and it is ready to use.

The big difference between installing this simple small unit and a larger window unit are electricity and weight. A small air conditioner, just enough to cool a bedroom, can be plugged into a 115 volt socket. All wired homes in the

United States have a 115 volt supply. That is the outlet that supplies power for all your lamps and small appliances. A large air conditioner needs a 230 volt line. You can have an electrician run a 230 volt line to serve your new 230 volt air conditioner.

Setting a small air conditioner in a window is the most common and usually the least expensive way to install one. But some prefer their air conditioner installed through the wall. This is a job for professionals or someone handy with tools.

There are several advantages to placing a unit in the wall. You can place the air conditioner where it will do the best job, which may not be where you have a window. You can install the front flush to the wall. No windows need to be taken up and nothing sticks into the room. Most mortgage companies will consider a through-the-wall air conditioner as part of the home.

Because the workmen cut a hole in the wall, installation of a through the wall model is fairly permanent. However, by picking the right spot on the right wall (in the right house) it is possible to cool an entire house. For example, a large capacity model installed at one end of a hallway that several rooms open onto may cool all the rooms.

There are many happy home owners with one or more window units strategically installed giving excellent "whole house" cooling.

The best way to cool an entire house is to install a central system. Such a system must be installed by professionals, a job that usually takes less than a day.

In a central system the furnace blower circulates cool air just as it circulates warm air in the winter. The system is very quiet because the biggest noisemaker, the compressor is out of doors.

A central system is more expensive than a room air conditioner (although it may be less expensive than cooling the same house with three or four units). It is permanent, which may make the house more attractive to potential buyers.

A central system is usually not practical in an old house not heated by hot air. Installing the necessary duct work would be much too expensive.

The best—and least expensive—time to specify central air conditioning is when you are planning a new house. When you are having a central air conditioning system put in, it is wise to obtain several written estimates from companies before you sign anything and to check your contractor's reputation with the local Better Business Bureau.

After you decide you want a room air conditioning unit and you have decided where you want to put it, your next decision is what size air-conditioner do you want to cool the designated area.

A bigger air conditioner than you really need is not a good idea. An air conditioning unit that is too large for an area will cool the air but does not have the time to take the moisture out. So the room is cool but clammy.

If the air conditioner is too small, the poor thing may run all day and night and never get the room properly cooled. But with a properly sized unit, the room or area can be cooled just right on the hottest days.

The size of an air conditioner is expressed in British Termal Units, BTUs. A BTU is the amount of heat it takes to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

When a salesman says, "This is an 8,000 BTU unit," he means the air conditioner will remove 8,000 BTUs of heat from the air every hour. An 18,000 BTU unit can cool a much larger room or area than a 8,000 unit. What does the air conditioner do with all those BTUs one might ask. It transfers them to the outside air, which is why part of an air conditioner must be outside.

The more BTUs the greater the unit's capacity to remove heat.

When buying a room air-conditioner make sure the unit carries an AHAM seal. This seal stands for the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. This seal certifies the unit's BTUs, volts and amps. This seal tells the consumer that one manufacturer's 8,000 BTU unit has as much capacity as another manufacturer's 8,000 BTU unit.

Most women find BTUs a mystery even when explained. So if the homemaker is shopping for the air conditioner, a salesman will be more than happy to estimate the size of the air conditioner she needs.

Tell the salesman the following things about the room or area you want to cool: 1). The number and size of the windows and the direction they face, 2) The room's length, width, and height, and 3) Any unusual heat producing circumstances, such as a stove or washer or dryer. He will then figure what size air conditioner you need.

Here are some other features you may say you are looking for in an air conditioner:

– Sound. Not all air conditioners are equally quiet. Padding and mounting influence the quietness of a unit. More expensive units will have better sound muffling additions.

– Air direction control. You want to be able to move the louvers right or left to direct cool air exactly where you want it.

– Ventilation. You want an air conditioner that can be turned on not only to cool, but to push stale air, smoke and cooking odors out of a room when you need it.

– Thermostat. You want a thermostat that switches the cooling unit off and on to maintain the temperature setting you selected.

– Two or three speed fan. You want a unit that has at least two speeds for the fan. The high speed is used during the day and when quick cooling is desired. The low speed is for night use.

– Easy to clean filter. Every air conditioner has a filter to clean the dirt particles out of the air. You want to be able to reach this filter easily, slip the filter out, wash or vacuum it, and slip it back in place.

– Rust-proof cabinet design. Because an air conditioner cooling system usually lasts for years, it is important that your cabinet be rustproof. Ask if the cabinet is rust proof.

Improve your life this summer. Find the right air conditioner to cool your house. You will find many benefits, some of them hidden.

"Having the entire house air conditioned is a wonderful thing," says one woman, "but do you know what I like best about it?

"Not the cool, dry air in the summer. Not even that everyone eats better and sleeps better. What I like best is that I don't ever have to worry when I am away from home and there is a sudden storm that I left the windows open. They are always closed," she commented.



HYDROELECTRICITY AND YOUR ELECTRIC BILL:

# Does Uncle Sam give a dam?

**CONGRESS HAS A RARE CHANCE TO END PRIVATE EXPLOITATION OF A VAST PUBLIC RESOURCE**

*Condensed from Consumer Reports magazine*

Harnessed to turbine generators, the rivers of America produce nearly one-fifth of the nation's electricity. Fifty years ago, Congress established the Federal Power Commission for the sole and express purpose, at that time, of overseeing and encouraging the developent of the national hydroelectric potential. While the hydroelectric potential of navigable rivers could be licensed out, Congress stipulated preference should be given to projects to be developed by state or local governments. Congress also retained the right to buy back any hydroelectric dams and installations constructed under government license. No license, Congress said, could extend for more than 50 years.

Since the establishment of the FPC under the Federal Water Power Act of 1920, it has licensed hundreds of major projects. Today, according to the FPC, there are 328 licensed projects with an estimated cost of $8.6 billion and a total capacity of about 33.1 million killowatts. Together they produce more than half the nation's hydroelectricity, with the rest coming from Federally owned projects such as those operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Some of the non-Federal projects are run by state or municipal agencies or rural electric cooperatives, some few by manufacturing firms for their own use. But most are run by privately-owned, profit making utility companies. Many of the original licenses are nearing expiration; 70 will expire in the next six years. They include four hydroelectric projects on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, 11 on the Wisconsin River in Wisconsin, a huge project on the Pit River in California and projects in 18 other states.

The Government is faced with deciding, project by project, whether to grant new licenses to the original developers. Congress' original instructions to the FPC, altered somewhat by later legislation, provide for other courses of action. The FPC can transfer privately held licenses to rival applicants. Or it can advise Congress to recapture a privately owned project and operate it under public ownership. Other Federal agencies involved in river management, such as the Department of Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers, can also recommend that Congress take over projects, or Congress may recapture a project on its own initiative.

Very few persons outside the electric power industry and the FPC are aware of the enormous public stake involved, and it looks very much as though most of the projects will be routinely relicensed on terms little different from those in the original licenses. The big question is, whether the FPC is looking after hydroelectric power in the consumer interest. It would be unfortunate indeed if the FPC were not, because the portioning out of the nation's hydroelectric power is of tremendous importance to consumers, and because there are grounds for suspicion that some private utilities have abused their license privilege by overcharging the public.

According to the FPC, "The best of our hydroelectric developments provide the lowest cost power in the nation." It is plain to see why. Hydroelectricity uses no fuel; as long as rivers flow, they represent a never-ending source of energy. Furthermore, hydroelectric plants do not pollute the air. They do not consume water. They do, however, pose some conservation problems. Projects must be designed so as not to

adversely affect persons, fish and wildlife or obliterate uniquely scenic landscapes. Fortunately, existing projects do not thermally pollute rivers to the extent that heat-generating power plants do by raising their water temperatures, threatening aquatic life and reducing water's biological capacity to break down untreated sewage.

With hydroelectric capacity on tap, utilities do not have to build and hold in near-readiness an emergency supply of steam-generated power. When power is suddenly needed, the sluice gates can be opened to generate additional power quickly. Although hydroelectric plants are costly to build, they are relatively inexpensive to operate, and they have long life and relatively predicatble costs. Production costs represent more than half the total price of electricity, the rest going for transmission and distribution. Today 19 per cent of the nation's electric power is hydroelectric, 80 per cent is produced by steam-driven turbines and one per cent is generated by nuclear energy. Despite an anticipated increase in the production of electricity from atomic power, the FPC anticipates a continued increase in the production of hydroelectricity.

Power can be transmitted to consumers many hundreds of miles from dam sites. Thus the disposition of expiring privately held hydroelectric licenses is important not only to people living near the dams but to consumers everywhere. One basic question confronting the FPC is whether more of the hydroelectricity now under private control should be made available to consumer-owned municipal systems and rural electric cooperatives. Although some such systems generate electricty for themselves, most buy it from the big privately-owned companies. Some of the consumer owned systems have complained of being turned down for additional power by private systems or of having been denied what they consider fair rates.

A substantial publicly owned power sector alongside the private sector can benefit the consumers of both. Improvements in service and reductions in rates achieved by the one can serve as a competitive yardstick for the other. According to *Fortune* magazine, projects like TVA "have had the healthy effect of lowering prices, improving the efficiency, and even raising the earnings of neighboring private utilities." It is significant, says *Fortune* that New England, the region with the highest electric rates in the country, is the only region without a Federal power project. Public power is important, moreover, according to former TVA Director David Lilienthal, as a reminder that unless the business of supplying people with reasonably priced, reliable electric power is "carried on by private corporations with a due sense of responsibility to the paramount public interest . . . the public, at any time, may assume the function of providing itself with this necessity of community life."

State regulated electric power monopolies stand accused, in many instances, of grossly overcharging the consumer and concealing in their account books profits considerably higher than they're officially permitted and virtually guaranteed. For any hydroelectric project in operation 50 years or so, there is a good chance that excess profits have paid back the entire investment.

So far no member of Congress has stepped forward with new proposals championing the public interest in hydroelectricity. It may take an act of Congress to establish a clear policy for the FPC to carry out as licenses expire. The policy might require a thorough review of electric rates charged by the original licensees. No license should be granted again to a company that abused the public trust by overcharging or by discriminating against consumer-owned utilities. The policy might also reaffirm what Congress made clear 50 years ago—that publicly-owned hydroelectric projects should be fostered.

As matters stand, consumer-owned utlities do not seem likely to receive a preference when the FPC considers what to do with expiring licenses. *Business Week* has said the present FPC chairman, John Nassikas, has a "strong preference" for privately owned utilities and is "dubious about having the agency shoulder more responsibilities."

Regrettably, there will usually be no one qualified to make a strong argument for public ownership or investigation of excessive monoply profits as, one by one, the 328 hydroelectric licenses expire. No consumer advocate, in the person of a utility consumer's counsel as envisioned in a bill sponsored by Sen. Lee Metcalf, exists or is on the immediate horizon. A Federal Independent Consumer Protection Agency, as proposed by Ralph Nader and sponsored by Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal, might some day take on the job, but probably not in time to influence any FPC decisions about the first 70 hydroelectric licenses that are about to expire.

Without the interjection of a strong, well-informed consumer voice, the decisions may be made under political pressure from only one utility industry. The issues will surely be too technical for the average citizen to grapple with as a participant in the democratic process.

Consumer-minded Congressmen might therefore wish to raise the question whether any of the now privately held hydroelectric licenses ought ot be placed again in private hands. The alternative requiring the minimum of red tape and procedural wrangling would be for Congress to amend the Federal Power Act so that each hydroelectric plant is recaptured automatically by the Federal government when its license runs out. As part and parcel of a drastically needed national policy to assure an adequate and reliable supply of electricity for current and future demands, the amended act might put all the recaptured plants under management of TVA-like authority or a few regional authorities. Under the watchful eye of some form of consumer advocate, the FPC and the hydroelectric authorities could apportion power to the private, public and cooperative utilites according to well-laid regional plans assuring adequate and reliable reserves of power to meet present normal and peak demands and to anticipate larger future demands. And one of the essential elements of any national power policy should be to preserve the competitve benefits of a mixture of public and private systems.

Incredible as it may seem, despite the huge blackout of 1965, despite major blackouts since then, despite power shortages and brownouts in New York City last summer, there is no central electric authority. And despite all those harbingers of darkness, Congress still has not empowered the FPC to establish or enforce minimum standards for the safety and reliability of the electric energy upon which almost everyone in the U .S. depends.

# MAILBOX

## "Spring"

*Spring is here,*
*It's blowing in the breeze*
*And all God's creation*
*Begins to awaken.*
*It is the best time,*
*And everything is new*
*and shiny bright.*

*It is Lovetime,*
*Springtime.*
*I love the bees and the Trees*
*The butterflies and the birds*
*But most of all*
*I love God.*

*I gaze heavenward,*
*Into the shining sky,*
*And God seems to say,*
*"Be still and know*
*That I am God"*
*Everyone that accepts my son*
*Will be new and shiny bright."*

*Oh yes, my heart answered,*
*New and shiny bright*
*And something within me begins to sing,*
*Thank you God,*
*Thank you God for Spring.*

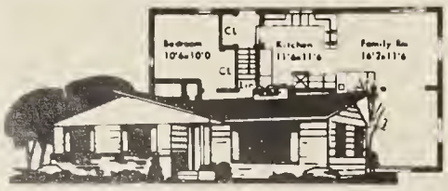
Barbara Broome
Rt. 2, Bessemer City

## Boyhood Memories

I personally thank you for your fishing story and your comments on page 6 of the May Carolina Country. Your memory of how it really was when we were boys was expressed so vividly I must confess to a little mist in the eyes as I read it.

Harry L. Seely Jr.
Richmond, Va.


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# Fashion FAVORITES













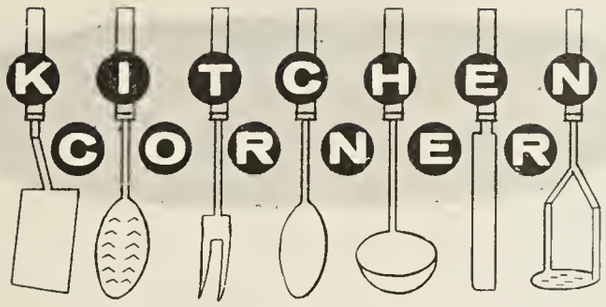






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Pattern No. 9382 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48.
Pattern No. 4829 in sizes S—8-10, M—12-14, and L—16-18.
Pattern No. 9403 in sizes 10, 12, 14 and 16.
Pattern No. 4927 is cut in sizes 2, 4, 6 and 8.

**Send 65 cents in coin (no stamps) for each pattern to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, BOX 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N. Y. 10011. For first class mail, add 15 cents for each pattern.**




# HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

How do you like to make your homemade ice cream? With a modern electric ice cream freezer or the old fashion hand turn type? All the other modern electric appliances are fine but when it comes to homemade ice cream, do it the old fashion way. Everyone loves the hand turn freezer, especially the children. Let every one take a turn.

This homemade ice cream recipe was sent to us by Mrs. Lucy Parrish. She lives on a farm near Jackson Springs with her mother. They are served by Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation.

**If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share through this column, send it to: Betty McBride, Kitchen Corner, P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. Tell us something about yourself and your family and give us the name of your electric membership corporation. We pay $2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.**

## CAROLINA COUNTRY RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. Lucy Parrish, Jackson Springs, N.C. 27281.

### HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 tall can evaporated milk
1 pint light cream
2 teaspoons vanilla
½ teaspoon salt
2 cups strawberries or other fruit
Enough milk to make a gallon.

Beat eggs and sugar together. Add canned milk and cream and fruit and enough milk to make 1 gallon. Freeze in turn type freezer. Makes 1 gallon.

# Free Patterns



**Beach Dress**

For something new under the sun crochet a shifty-shaped beach dress with lots of swinging tassels.



**Duffle Bag**

Bright striped crocheted bag has drawstring top. Sling it over your shoulder on a long double cord.



**Lacy Blouse**

An Irish rose is special. Irish crochet motifs have been joined together for a feminine, fragile blouse.



**Summer Dress**

Wear this wee wisp of a dress for summer best. Dress is crocheted with dainty raised rosettes.

To:
The Carolina Homemaker
P. O. Box 1699
Raleigh, N. C. 27602

This pattern offer expires August 15, 1970

Please send me the pattern instructions I have checked below. I am enclosing a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope bearing a 6-cent stamp. (Two such envelopes are required for more than 4 patterns.)

- ☐ Beach Dress
- ☐ Duffle Bag
- ☐ Lacy Blouse
- ☐ Summer Dress

My name is: _____

Address: _____

Comment; if any: _____

The name of my EMC is: _____

# "Should Teenagers Marry While Still in High School?"

"I don't think it is advisable for teenagers to marry while they are still in high school. For one reason they are too young and they haven't had enough responsibilities. Another reason is they don't really know what they want in the future while they are still in high school. If teenagers do marry in high school they usually don't have enough money to make a living on their own so they have to resort to their parents. Also sometimes when teenagers marry while they are still in high school their marriage will cause the boy to have to quit school in order to support himself and his wife. There is also a chance of an early family. For these reasons I believe it is better for teenagers to block the thought of marriage out of their minds until they finish high school and feel they are ready to face the responsibilities of married life."

**Sue McBroom, Route 1, Box 52, Efland**

*Sue is 17 years and attended Orange High School in Hillsborough. Her hobbies are horseback riding, sewing and volleyball. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. McBroom, are served by Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation.*

* * * * *

"If two teenagers are willing to carry the burden of trying to keep themselves up while both are still in school, marriage would be fine. But they should think about the responsibilities they are going to have. I don't think teenagers should get married until they have finished high school. Finishing high school is a big problem to start out with in a marriage. So all teenagers that are in school should think about these problems first. I have seen a lot of unhappy married teenagers who could not carry the heavy burdens of married life and are separated or divorced now. I am not saying that every teenager who marries while still in school ends up with a big flop. But over 50% of them do."

**Judy Shoffner, Rt. 5, Mocksville**

*Judy is 15 years old and will be a junior at Davie County High School. She enjoys typing and going to school. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Shoffner are members of Davie Electric Membership Corporation.*

"I think it would be considered fine for teenagers to marry while they are still in high school if they are able to support themselves and are sure that they know what they are doing. It is really better to finish your schooling before marriage in most cases, but no two pairs of teenagers entering marriage have exactly the same ideas and hopes for the future. I think the reason a lot of the marriages between teenagers don't last very long, is because hasty decisions were made between the two. However, on the other side, is the couple who considers marriage from all viewpoints, including their love for each other, what they have to live for in the future, and the decision of whether or not they wish to have children. Together, with some help from understanding parents and friends, I think most of the teenagers who marry in high school can have a successful and fulfilling life."

**Dianne Elliott, Rt. 2, Box 35, West Jefferson**

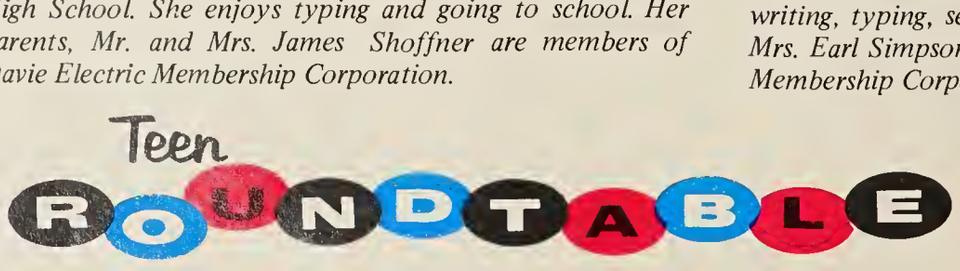
*Diane is 15 years old and attended Beaver Creek High School. She enjoys skating, swimming, and listening to all types of music. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond V. Elliott are served by Blue Ridge Membership Corporation.*

* * * * *

"I think a teenager should not get married while in high school. It is evident in my own school that a married teenager does not have the freedom as the other students do. The married teenager must first consider his or her home life before engaging in school activities, usually, they just don't have the time. Also the person's grades drop down below normal because of the pressures at home. This is heart-breaking because the last four years of high school are so much fun. You are free to take part in the school activities you desire. Also, you have time to spend on your grades which are an influence on anything you attempt to do in the future."

**Connie Simpson, Route 3, Box 482, Smithfield**

*Connie is a graduate of Triple S High School. She enjoys writing, typing, sewing and shorthand. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Simpson, are served by Pamlico-Beaufort Electric Membership Corporation.*




If you have a good answer, send it to THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE, Carolina Country, P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C., at once. Tell us a few facts about yourself—your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name, and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you $5.

If you want to submit a question, send it along for our statewide panel to answer. For each question used, the sender will get a $5 check. Jot yours down and send it to us right away.

## NEXT QUESTION

**"Should parents have a right to tell a teenager how to spend his allowance or his earnings?"**

This question was submitted by Mary Taylor, who will be receiving $5 from CAROLINA COUNTRY. Mary is 15 years old and will be a junior at Benhaven High School. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Doberstein, are served by Central Electric Membership Corporation.

# HaLE!

### Amen

Some years back a man who wasn't used to praying in public was called on to offer the closing prayer at a rural church. He started out and rambled on and on, apparently unable to find a place to stop. Suddenly in the middle of a sentence he turned to his wife.

"Sarah, you wind this up," he said in a loud whisper, "danged if I ain't got 'er in a terrible twist!"

### Modern Inconvenience

A teen-ager was lamenting to a friend that sometimes having her own phone could be a nuisance.

"For instance," she complained, "if I won't get up when my mother calls, she phones me!"

### Destination Gamble

Man at airline ticket counter: "I'll take two chances on your flight to Miami."

### Flower Power

One day a big "hippie bus" covered with stick-on daisies came rumbling into a roadside gas station. The gas station attendant came up to the driver and asked: "Do you want gasoline, or shall I just water your flowers?"

### College Days

The parents of a youth away at college had just received a letter from their offspring. The boy's mother opened the letter and started to read it aloud, when the father interrupted.

"Never mind reading the whole letter," he said. "Just read me the 'by the way, dad' part."

### Choosing a Vocation

Two men were discussing the fact that they both had sons away at college.

"What does your boy plan to be when he graduates?" asked one.

"I'm not really sure," replied the other, "But judging from his letters he'll end up a professional fund raiser."



"There's one thing that'll bridge the generation gap. Money."

### The Longest Day

A mother of seven children had just had a particularly hectic day, trying to keep the youngsters in line and cope with a bad case of the flu. About 6 o'clock in the evening she glanced at the kitchen clock and was startled to see that it was so late.

"Where has my day gone?" she asked aloud.

With that, little 3-year-old Johnny ran by and shouted: "I didn't take it—Timmy did!"

### On Credit

The preacher of a little mountain town church ran off with the church funds. A deacon was sent to find him. When he returned he was asked if he had found their preacher and filed charges against him. "I found him," he replied, "but he had already spent the money so I brought him back so we can make him preach it out."

### Just Like Father

A man came home and seeing his children on the front steps, asked what they were doing.

"We're playing church," they answered.

It didn't resemble a church service, as they were standing and talking. The puzzled father inquired further and was told, "Well, we've already sung, prayed and preached and now we're outside on the steps smoking."

*What Other Editors Think*

## "Self Insured Motorists"

(Editorial by Sam Ragan in The Pilot, Southern Pines)

For some time now we've been toying with an idea, and we think it's time to bring it forward to public debate.

The idea is for the State of North Carolina to take over the business of automobile liability insurance.

Private insurance companies keep complaining that they do not want the business, that they are losing money on it (even though records in the office of the State Insurance Commissioner do not show it), and that it is unfair for the state to have a law requiring such insurance.

So, if they don't want the business, why not let the people become self-insurers?

The self-insurance plan seems to have worked well for public schools, with a considerable saving for the taxpayers. Why couldn't a somewhat similar plan be put into effect for the state's automobile owners?

A self-insuring, state-administered plan could be operated by the Motor Vehicles Department. Payments could be made in installments or at the time when auto plates are purchased. We daresay that the cost would be considerably less than it is now for most motorists.

There would have to be, of course, regulations, and we refer first to some sort of regulations on auto repair charges by garages in the state. Such charges have gotten out of hand, and something needs to be done. But of prime concern, too, are the excessive rates now being charged for auto insurance.

We would like to see the State Insurance Commissioner undertake a study of this proposal. Certainly it should not be dismissed without full consideration. A crisis is near, and something needs to be done to avoid it.

# When a Stranger Comes Selling You Stand to Lose If You Buy

Spring, summer, fall or winter, in rural North Carolina it's the season of the flim-flammer. Most especially the flim-flammer working the home improvement racket.

Sure as the homeowner begins thinking of sprucing up the house, often before he has the thought, the flim-flammer comes calling, full of ideas for separating him from his money.

The files of the State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, the N. C. Consumers Council and Better Business Bureaus around the state contain many examples of how the "home improvement" game is played. Yet the flim-flammers continue to operate, masquerading as legitimate companies, sometimes with a different name for each of the areas in which they do business. Closed down under one name, they pop up elsewhere with another.

Here, from information on file with the Consumer Protection Division, is how one scheme was worked:

The company's agents called on homeowners and persuaded them to let the company insulate their homes and install electric heat. It used high pressure sales tactics, did inferior work and overcharged its victims. The majority of the victims were low-income families. The prices the company charged them were approximately double what the work was worth, and it bound them by deeds of trust on their homes to pay high finance charges.

The insulation was either inadequate or improperly installed. The storm windows and doors included in the deal did not fit properly or were not properly sealed.

"Usually two salesmen will call on the prospect at night," the Consumer Protection Division was told. "They will take turns making the sales pitch and will not give the prospect a chance to examine the contract. They are most reluctant to leave without making a sale."

Finance charges ran from 15 to 20 percent, usually for five years. Electrical wiring barely met code requirements. Some baseboard heating units attached to sheet rock or paneled walls fell away in a few months. Because the houses were not properly sealed and insulated, heating bills ran far higher than the homeowner anticipated or was led to expect.

Unless the Consumer Protection Division can establish that laws were violated, the company's victims have little recourse.

But other homeowners can avoid their plight by exercising a few precautions:

– Never buy any "home improvement" sold by a stranger who comes to your home without being asked. Don't do business with a firm that has only a Post Office box number for an address. Look up the firm and visit its offices. Anybody these days can drive a fine car or a new pickup truck. Be sure there's more to the company than the car or truck that comes to your house.

– If you want electric heat, air conditioning, aluminum siding, new gutters or other improvements, seek out reliable contractors yourself and ask them for estimates.

– Always get two or more estimates from reputable firms before you sign a contract or agreement. Don't sign anything until you've investigated and don't let any work be done unless you have a firm, clear agreement as to terms, conditions and cost in writing.

– Don't be misled by advertising that offers exceptional bargains or cut rates. The prices advertised are bait to get you to bite. When the salesman calls, he'll talk you into buying something much more expensive.

– If your "home improvement" includes electric heat or air conditioning, consult your power company or electric membership corporation and get impartial advice. In most cases, they'll be glad to tell you what must be done to prepare your home for efficient electric heating and cooling and to help you estimate what the resulting electric bills will be.

– Don't buy anything from a door-to-door salesman until you're fully satisfied the deal is honest. If you can't say no, at least tell him to come back later when you've had time to think. If you take time to think, you'll probably realize you're about to buy something you don't want, don't need and can't afford to pay for.

*Jim Chaney*